

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING MS. VERNA TELLER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I am honored to have a fierce woman from my district to deliver a historic opening prayer.

Isleta Pueblo Chief Judge Verna Teller is the first Native American to deliver the opening prayer in the U.S. House.

This is a special time in our country's history and, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, a time to reflect on the contributions of Native Americans to this country.

Chief Judge Teller made her own history in New Mexico. She broke barriers when she was elected as the first woman Pueblo Governor. Because of the history of colonization, many Pueblos generally don't allow women to hold leadership positions, but that didn't stop Judge Teller from knowing her value as a Tribal leader.

I am proud to stand with Chief Judge Teller to highlight the resilience of indigenous women and our perseverance to uplift our girls and our women in all of our communities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VEASEY). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COMMENDING MEMBERS OF NIAGARA FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND NEW YORK STATE PARK POLICE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our everyday heroes—police and fire personnel—who sign up to rush into dangerous situations most people would run from.

Today I want to take this opportunity to commend the outstanding members of the Niagara Falls Fire Department and the New York State Park Police.

Last week, a man was discovered in the fierce and frigid rapids of the Niagara River. Without hesitation, the Niagara Falls firefighters and New York State Park Police took quick action, entering the water just yards away from the brink of Niagara Falls and, under the most dangerous of circumstances, completed a successful rescue.

We are grateful for the brave and selfless service of these first responders

and others across my community and this Nation who risk their own safety and save the lives of others.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DEBBIE BONE-HARRIS

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Debbie Bone-Harris as she begins her retirement from the Franklin Public Utility District.

Deb began working for Franklin PUD in 2003 and has held many roles throughout the organization. She has been a stalwart advocate for hydropower in the Northwest. She has spent countless hours educating our community about the value of the Columbia and the Snake River dams, and she has worked with both State and Federal legislators to advocate for their protection.

Deb is a leader, not only with the Franklin PUD, but in the greater community as well. She has served on numerous boards and held leadership roles with community organizations, including Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Visit Tri-Cities, Tri-Cities Legislative Council, Washington Public Utility District, Northwest Public Power Association, and Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

As Deb begins her well-earned retirement, our community wishes her the best as she enjoys spending more time with her grandchildren, going on hot-rod adventures with her husband, and attending those rowdy sewing conventions.

I thank Deb for her advocacy and congratulate her.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLEET READINESS CENTER SOUTHWEST

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, the birthplace of naval aviation maintenance.

In 1912, the entire Navy aviation squad consisted of four officers and three planes, which called North Island home. As more planes routinely landed at sea, it became necessary for the Navy to have an official aviation maintenance facility.

Shortly after the U.S. Government obtained the island in 1917, it established the Overhaul and Repair Department, the first maintenance repair and overhaul facility in the Department of Defense.

Now designated as the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, the goals are the same: to produce quality equipment and provide support to our Nation's aviation war fighters through the overhaul, repair, and modification

of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps frontline aircraft.

Encompassing 358 acres and over 80 buildings, the Fleet Readiness Center is one of the largest aerospace employers in San Diego County, employing approximately 3,500 civilians and 900 military personnel.

Please join me in honoring one of the best facilities in the U.S. Navy, the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest at Naval Air Station North Island, on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING WALTER B. JONES, JR.

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I proudly announced my first piece of legislation as a Member of Congress, H.R. 5037.

Of course, every bill that goes through this great legislative body is important, but I think it is fair to say that every Member's first bill carries with it an importance in its own right. It marks the beginning of a new path forward, and I wanted mine to begin in remembrance of my predecessor, friend, and mentor, the late Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr.

Congressman Jones served the great people of eastern North Carolina for over 20 years. He supported our military, he supported our farmers, and he supported our coasts. As his successor, I pledge to do the same.

This bill, which would name a post office in the town Congressman Jones was born and raised, in the great town of Farmville, North Carolina, is the least that we can do to honor the remarkable statesman and steward that he was.

In this time of great divisiveness, it is wonderful to have an issue that we all can rally around and support. I look forward to this bill becoming a reality for the people of eastern North Carolina.

LOWER THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mrs. AXNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. AXNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the price of prescription drugs is too high and prescription drug prices have risen 44 percent in 5 years.

Big pharmaceutical companies have raised the cost of the most commonly used drugs by 100 percent. I am talking about every day, basic prescription drugs like insulin for diabetes or Advair for asthma.

Experts say there is no end in sight, and we will see prices rise in 2020 if this continues and if we don't act now.

I recently heard from Joan in west Des Moines, who said the cost of her generic suddenly skyrocketed, and there is nothing she can do, because if she doesn't take it she will need a liver transplant.

And I heard from John in Madrid, who discovered his insulin refills literally cost more than the price of gold if you broke it down by price per ounce.

That is why I am supporting H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act. Iowans and Americans can't wait any longer. Every dollar spent on overpriced drugs is stealing money away from someone's retirement, from someone's college fund, and from buying a home, and it is putting someone's life at risk.

We must act now and pass and support the Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In a 1987 speech in West Berlin, President Ronald Reagan famously declared: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

For nearly 30 years, East and West Berlin were separated, both physically and ideologically.

On November 9, 1989, freedom prevailed. East Germany's communist government and the Berlin Wall, one of the starkest symbols of the Cold War, would fall.

That evening, on a West German television channel, reporter Hanns Friedrichs proclaimed:

This 9th of November is a historic day. East Germany has announced that, starting immediately, its borders are open to everyone.

While East and West Germany would not officially unify until the following year, East and West Berliners rushed to the Brandenburg Gate to celebrate this historic moment that would lead to the end of the Cold War.

Let today serve as a reminder that freedom is always worth fighting for.

REPRESENTING NEW YORK'S 25TH DISTRICT

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, I took the oath of office and was sworn in as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

It is truly the honor of a lifetime to represent New York's 25th District, and I am grateful every day for the opportunity to serve the community I love.

I am so proud of the work we have done in the past year to improve the lives of everyday Americans. The House has passed landmark legislation to create universal background checks on all gun sales. We are taking action to lower the cost of prescription drugs

and make healthcare more affordable for working families. We are fighting to protect our climate, strengthen our economy, close the gender pay gap, and ensure everyone has access to a quality education.

Back home, I am working with community partners on strategies to reduce poverty and give opportunity to all of our citizens.

I am proud of our work, but there is so much more still to be done, and I look forward to another year continuing my work for the people of my community and the people of the United States.

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KEEPING SOLEMN PROMISE TO NATION'S VETERANS

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we gathered around the country to honor our veterans to whom we owe a tremendous debt. But sentiments expressed at parades and ceremonies ring hollow if we don't follow our good words with meaningful deeds for those who have served and sacrificed so much.

Although the VA has countless care providers and employees who have dedicated their careers to veterans, they work in a system that has serious problems that must be addressed quickly.

It is unacceptable that the health network for more than 9 million veterans has remained on the High-Risk List of Federal agencies prone to deficiencies and waste. That is why I introduced the Reducing High Risk to Veterans and Veterans Services Act with my colleague, General BERGMAN, to improve the management and care at the VA.

It is also unacceptable that the VA has not met the needs of a growing number of women veterans. I introduced legislation with Congresswoman STEFANIK that will ensure the VA is equipped to provide women veterans with life-changing prosthetics as part of the Deborah Sampson Act.

We made a solemn promise to our veterans, and we should be working together every day to fulfill that promise. These pieces of legislation are an important step forward, and I thank my colleagues for supporting these bipartisan bills.

ENACT GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION TO PROTECT POLICE, CITIZENS

(Mr. MALINOWSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, a gunman from another State sat in the parking lot of Tamaques Elementary School in my district, armed with a loaded .45-caliber handgun, hol-

low-point bullets, and 130 rounds of ammunition.

Because of the quick work of the Westfield Police Department of New Jersey, the gunman was disarmed and taken into custody. Officers Jeffrey Johnson, Michael Pollock, Joseph Habeiche, Elizabeth Savnik, and Tiffany Kenny, along with Detectives Nicholas Bruno and Jason Merritt, prevented what could have been a devastating tragedy.

I am eternally grateful for their brave and swift actions, and I am proud to recognize them this month as they are honored with the New Jersey PBA's Unit Citation Award for their heroism.

Mr. Speaker, police officers are the good guys with a gun in America. They are the good guys with a gun.

How many times do we have to experience these tragedies and close calls before Congress finally acts to protect them and us by keeping dangerous weapons from falling into the wrong hands?

The House has passed sensible gun safety legislation that will save lives. It is time for the Senate to act.

TRUMP-ERDOGAN MEETING SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE

(Mr. RASKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, it is an outrage that President Trump has honored President Erdogan today with a meeting at the White House.

During his infamous May 2017 visit to the White House, Erdogan dispatched his thugs to beat up peaceful protesters at Sheridan Circle here in the Capital of the United States of America, demonstrating before the world his contempt not only for human rights but for the rule of law in our country. He should have been banned from America until he makes all of his victims whole.

This time, his visit coincides with Turkey's savage military campaign in northern Syria, an invasion that has killed hundreds of civilians, displaced and driven from their homes over 160,000 people, threatened our national security, and produced a massive humanitarian crisis.

Just weeks ago, the U.S. House passed H.J. Res. 77 and H.R. 4695, the Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act, which denounced Turkey's military actions against the Kurdish people in northern Syria.

We also cannot overlook Erdogan's continuing oppressive actions against the Turkish people. He has executed a campaign of repression against anyone who dares disagree with his barbaric policies.

This meeting should not be taking place.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair